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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,405	02/27/2002	Hidefumi Adachi	381AS/50989	7380

7590 04/12/2006

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Intellectual Property Law Gr.
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2595

EXAMINER

TO, TUAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3663

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,405

Applicant(s)

ADACHI, HIDEFUMI

Examiner

Tuan C. To

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-8,11-13,15-17 and 20-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-13 and 24-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,15,16,21-23,27 and 28 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 17 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 5-8, and 17 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Sielagoski et al. (US 6393352B2) and Winner et al. (US 6273204B1). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of claims 1-3, 5-8, 15-17, 20-23, 27, and 28 in the reply filed on 01/17/2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by Sielagoski et al. (US 6393352B2).

As regarding claims 5-8, the system/method of Sielagoski et al. includes an ACC system for a motor vehicle, wherein the speed of the vehicle is decrease by applying

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foot brake (see Sielagowski et al., figure 1), the ACC is maintained in a deceleration of 0-0.1g and cancelled in a deceleration of 0.3g. Furthermore, when the driver performs a foot brake during the traveling speed of 0-20km/h in ACC, the ACC is maintained (Sielagowski et al., column 3, lines 39-50).

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by Winner et al. (US 6273204B1).

Regarding claim 17, Winner et al. direct to a system/method for controlling the speed of a motor vehicle comprising an adaptive cruise control (ACC) including the measuring device (22) for sensing a speed of the vehicle, the measuring device (30) such as radar for measuring the distance between the vehicle and a preceding vehicle and said radar is also the means for detecting a traveling environment (Winner et al., figure 1; column 3, lines 7-15). The ACC system disclosed in Winner et al. is also illustrated as being cancelled when the vehicle driver perform a function (Winner et al., column 3, lines 39-63).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 15, 16, 20-23, 27, and 28 are set in a condition of allowance.

Conclusions

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner,


Tuan C To

April 01, 2006

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